

Message Text

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17

ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 PM-03 INR-07 L-02 ACDA-10

NSAE-00 PA-02 RSC-01 PRS-01 SP-02 TRSE-00 SAI-01 EB-06

COME-00 NSC-05 SS-15 MC-02 H-02 DODE-00 /072 W

----- 087645

R 230815Z OCT 74

FM AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4594

INFO AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN

AMEMBASSY OSLO

AMEMBASSY PARIS

USMISSION NATO

USNMR SHAPE

USCINCEUR

USIA WASHDC

UNCLAS THE HAGUE 5174

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: MASS, NL

SUBJECT: PRESS COVERAGE OF F-104 REPLACEMENT
QUESTIONS

REF: THE HAGUE 5132

1. THIS IS SECOND MESSAGE IN SERIES SUMMARIZING DUTCH
PRESS COVERAGE OF F-104 REPLACEMENT STORY, WHICH
CONTINUES TO BE FOCUSSED ON CHARGES OF BRIBERY AGAINST
DASSAULT. PRIMIN DEN UYL HAS TRIED MINIMIZE SCANDAL
AD WAS QUOTED ON OCTOBER 19 AS SAYING THAT AFFAIR
"NOT SO VERY IMPORTANT," AND THAT "JUSTICE WILL TAKE ITS
COURSE." HE ALSO REPORTED AS SAYING THAT CHOICE OF
SUCCESSOR AIRCRAFT WILL NOT BE INFLUENCED BY BRIBERY
CHARGES.

2. DANKERT, CHAIRMAN OF SECOND CHAMBER'S FOREIGN AFFAIRS
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COMMITTEE, WHO REPORTED DASSAULT OVERTURES OF 1 1/2

MILLION GUILDERS (\$550,000) IS QUOTED IN OCTOBER 22 TELEGRAAF TO HAVE SAID THAT, "OF THE FOUR AIRPLANES IN QUESTION, THE MIRAGE IS STILL THE ONE WHICH IS MOST SUITED TO DEMANDS WHICH ARE AT MOMENT VALID." DANKERT ALSO REPORTEDLY CLAIMED THAT DASSAULT SYG FRANCOIS SHOWED HIM SECRET BELGIAN MOD MEMO IN SPRING OF THIS YEAR IN WHICH VANDEN BOEYNANTS IS SAID TO HAVE SHOWN PREFERENCE FOR MIRAGE. POLITICAL EDITOR OF NRC HANDELSBLAD SEES AFFAIR AS HAVING SO RUINED ANY CHANGES THAT DASSAULT MAY HAVE HAD IN NETHERLANDS, THAT ONE ALMOST SUSPECTS THAT DUTCH PARLIAMENTARIANS WERE APPROACHED BY AMERICAN OR SWEDE DISGUISED AS A DASSAULT REPRESENTATIVE.

3. GENERAL INVESTIGATION CONTINUES AND PRESS REPORTS THAT VARIOUS MEMBERS OF SECOND CHAMBER HAVE BEEN QUESTIONED. PARLIAMENT WILL DISCUSS MATTER IN DEBATE OCTOBER 23, BUT EXPECTATION IS THAT QUESTIONING WILL BE PERFUNCTORY AS LONG AS JUDICIAL INVESTIGATION STILL UNDERWAY.

4. ONE FRONT-PAGE STORY OCT 22 REPORTING ON OPENING OF CIVAIR NEGOTIATIONS, LINKS F-104 REPLACEMENT TO US POSITION ON KLM PASSENGER RIGHTS. REPORT CLAIMS THAT POLITICAL CIRCLES IN THE HAGUE EXPECT USG TO ADOPT MORE FLEXIBLE POSITION LATER ON KLM IF GON BUYS US REPLACEMENT AIRCRAFT.
GOULD

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: BRIBERY, GOVERNMENT PROCUREMENT, PRESS COMMENTS, ALLEGATIONS, AIRCRAFT SALES, F-104
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 23 OCT 1974
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: n/a
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: n/a
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment:
Disposition Date: 01 JAN 1960
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1974THEHA05174
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D740302-0145
From: THE HAGUE
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1974/newtext/t19741022/aaaaasbe.tel
Line Count: 89
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION EUR
Original Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: n/a
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: THE HAGUE 5132
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: golinofr
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 15 MAR 2002
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <15 MAR 2002 by chappeld>; APPROVED <06-Aug-2002 by golinofr>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: PRESS COVERAGE OF F-104 REPLACEMENT QUESTIONS
TAGS: MASS, NL
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005